

2001: A SPACE
ODYSSEY

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



30¢
CC

6
MAY
02672

BASED ON CONCEPTS
FROM THE MGM/
STANLEY KUBRICK
PRODUCTION



©1977 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BEHOLD
US, HARVEY
NORTON--WE
ARE **DOOM!**

FOR
YOU--AND
FOR YOUR
PLANET
EARTH!

JOIN AN AWESOME
COSMIC MANHUNT!
THE PRIZE--
IMMORTALITY!
THE PENALTY--
DEATH!



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

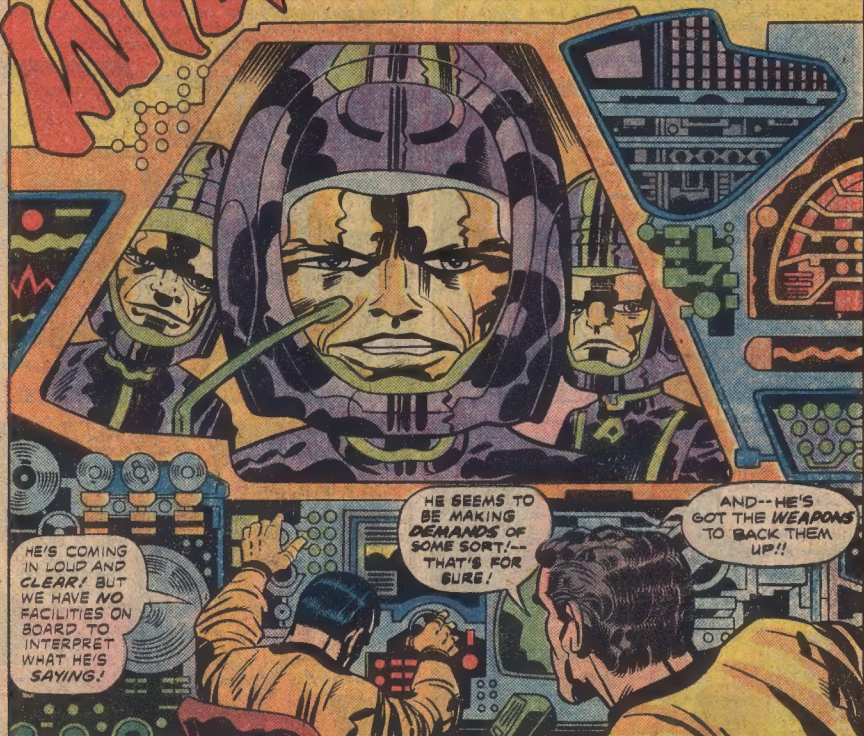
EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY • INKED AND LETTERED BY MICHAEL W. ROYER • COLORED BY GEORGE ROUSSOS • OVERSEEN BY ARCHIE GOODWIN

NAME: HARVEY NORTON OF NEW YORK 2040 A.D.
OCCUPATION: DREAMER, COMIC FREAK, ASTRONAUT!

**DESTINATION: WHEREVER THE ALIEN
MONOLITH WILL TAKE HIM!**

INTER-GALACTICA

"THE ULTIMATE TRIP!!!"



2001, A SPACE ODYSSEY™ is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published monthly. Copyright © 1977 by Marvel Comics Group. A Division of Cadence Industries Corporation. Based on material copyright © 1968 by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Inc. All rights reserved: 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 6, May, 1977 issue. Price 30¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$4.00 for 12 issues. Canada, \$5.00. Foreign, \$6.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the United States of America.



KEEP TAPING HIS VOICE!
PERHAPS WE CAN
DECODE HIS WORDS AND
FIND OUT EXACTLY
WHAT HE WANTS!

HE'S STOPPED
TRANSMITTING!
WE HAVE HIS
ULTIMATUM!
--OR WHATEVER
IT WAS!



I'LL RUN THE TAPES THROUGH
THE COMPUTER. IF WE GET
THE RIGHT ANSWERS, WE MAY
BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH
THESE ALIENS BEFORE THEY
OPEN FIRE AGAIN!

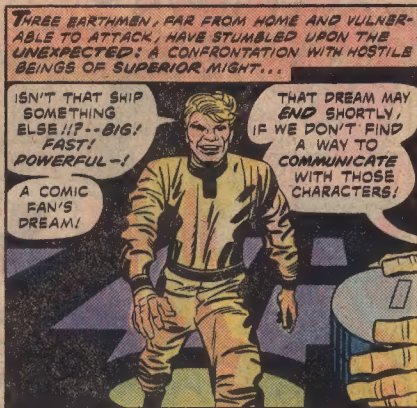
IT WON'T BE
A WARNING SHOT
NEXT TIME!--
YOU CAN SET
ON IT!



WHY WORK UP A SWEAT,
FELLAS? THE HOME TEAM
ALWAYS COMES OUT ON
TOP!--YOU KNOW THAT...

WE'RE IN A LIFE AND
DEATH SITUATION, NORTON!
WHAT WE NEED THE LEAST
IS YOUR COMIC BOOK
MENTALITY!

YOU'VE SEEN THAT
ALIEN SPACE CRAFT!
I SUPPOSE IT
FASCINATES
YOU?!

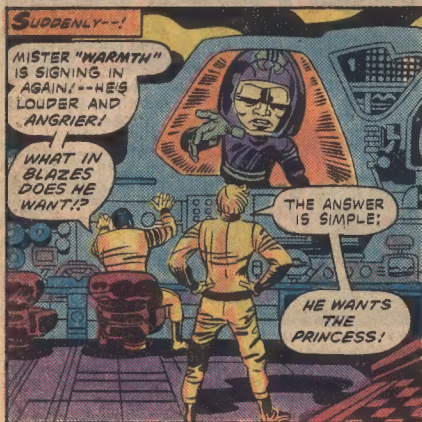


THREE EARTHMEN, FAR FROM HOME AND VULNER-
ABLE TO ATTACK, HAVE STUMBLER UPON THE
UNEXPECTED: A CONFRONTATION WITH HOSTILE
BEINGS OF SUPERIOR MIGHT...

ISN'T THAT SHIP
SOMETHING
ELSE!!?--BIG!
FAST!
POWERFUL--!

A COMIC
FAN'S
DREAM!

THAT DREAM MAY
END SHORTLY,
IF WE DON'T FIND
A WAY TO
COMMUNICATE
WITH THOSE
CHARACTERS!



SUDDENLY--!

MISTER "WARMTH"
IS SIGNING IN
AGAIN!--HE'S
LOUPEE AND
ANGRIER!

WHAT IN
BLAZES DOES HE
WANT!?

THE ANSWER
IS SIMPLE:

HE WANTS
THE
PRINCESS!



WHAT!!??

NORTON! I REALIZE
THAT THIS IS PANIC
TIME-- BUT
YOU'VE
COMPLETELY
LOST YOUR
HEAD!

WHAT'S
THIS TALK
ABOUT A
PRINCESS?

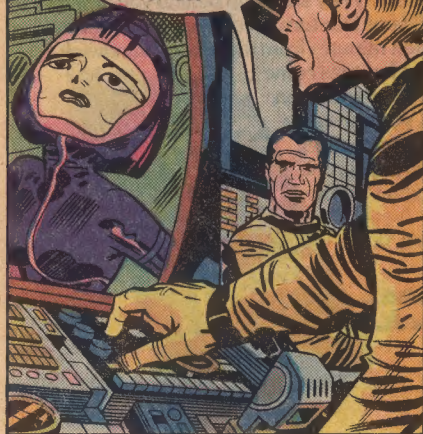
WE DID PICK UP A
CAPSULE WITH AN
ALIEN FEMALE IN
IT, DIDN'T WE!?

WELL... SHE'S
THE ONE
THEY WANT,
I TELL YOU!

NORTON MAKES A T.V. CHECK OF THEIR ALIEN GUEST...

LOOK AT HER! SHE KNOWS WHO THOSE SPACE RATS ARE! SHE KNOWS WHY WE'VE TAKEN A PASTING!

NONSENSE! SHE'S FRIGHTENED! --LIKE THE REST OF US!



AT THAT INSTANT, A NEW AND STRONGER SALVO STRIKES THE EARTHLING VESSEL...

WAAHNN!

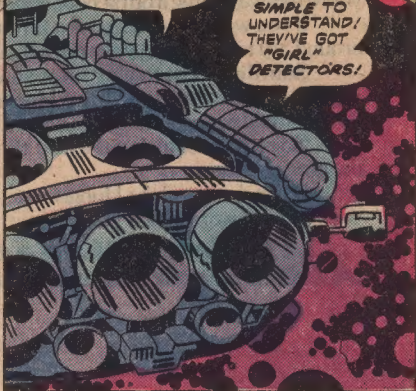


OF COURSE SHE IS! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE ENEMY!

SHE'S USED OUR SHIP FOR COVER! --AND NOW HER COVER IS BLOWN!

SOMENOW THEY KNOW SHE'S ABOARD THIS CRAFT!

THAT'S SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND! THEY'VE GOT "GIRL" DETECTORS!



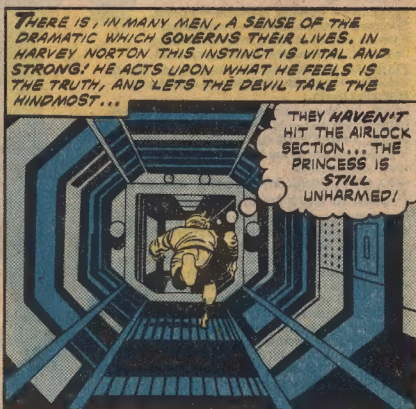
THEY'VE OPENED UP AGAIN!

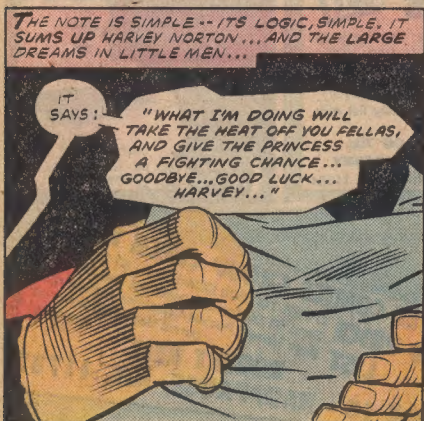
NO TIME TO CHECK FOR DAMAGE! TRY TO REACH THE SPACE-SUITS!

I'VE GOT IT! IT'S THE GIRL'S CAPSULE! THEY'VE GOT A FIX ON HER CAPSULE! THAT'S HOW THEY KNOW SHE'S ON BOARD!

FORGET IT, NORTON! FIND A SPACE SUIT!







MEANWHILE, FOR HARVEY NORTON, THE GREATEST OF ADVENTURES HAS BEGUN. HE IS IN AN ALIEN VEHICLE, RACING TOWARD THE VERY EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM...

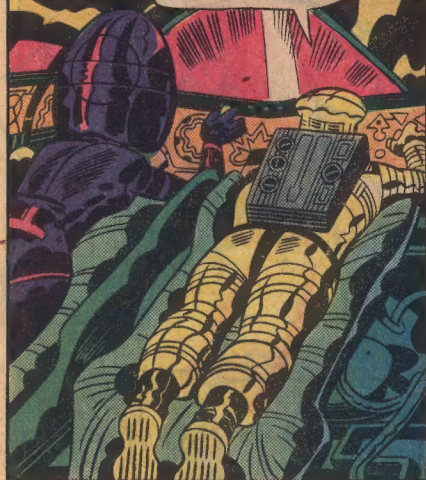


THIS IS
MORE'N JUST
A SPACE CAPSULE,
PRINCESS... IT'S
A TIN COMET!

BUT THAT BIG
CANOE IS JUST AS
FAST! C-CAN WE
OUTRUN IT?

THE ALIEN GIRL MAKES NO REPLY. SHE IS MORE ABSORBED WITH THE CROSSING OF PLUTO'S ORBIT--THAN CLOSING THE LANGUAGE GAP...

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU UNDERSTAND A WORD I'M SAYING? I-I FEEL MIGHTY STRANGE -- RATTLING ON THIS WAY -- BUT --



--I AM THE PARTY WITH ALL THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ... LIKE, WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WHERE DO YOU LIVE? WHY ARE THE "BAD GUYS" TRYING TO RUN YOU DOWN?



WELL...THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT, RIGHT NOW! WE MAY BE BLASTED INTO POWDER IN THE NEXT TEN SECONDS...

WHAT COUNTS IS OUR BEING TOGETHER-- TRUSTING EACH OTHER-- A DUDE AND A CHICK FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS!

I-IT'S A MIND-BREAKER!

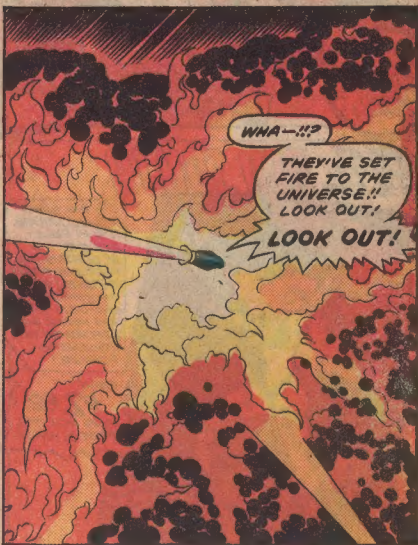



SUDDENLY, THE ENEMY ACTS! A MASS OF FLAMING ENERGY IS SPEWED A THOUSAND MILES INTO SPACE--DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE FLEEING CAPSULE...

WHA--!!?

THEY'VE SET FIRE TO THE UNIVERSE!! LOOK OUT!

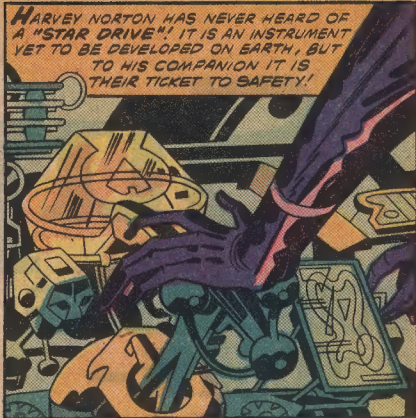
LOOK OUT!



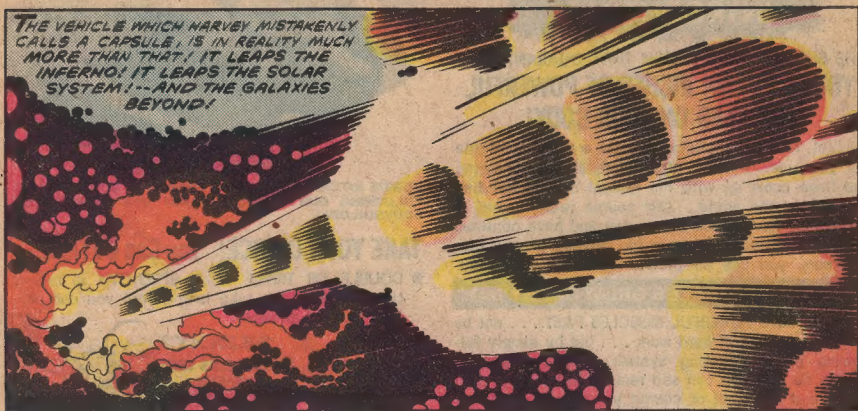


YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO CHANGE DIRECTION! --Y-YOU'RE HEADING **STRAIGHT** FOR THAT INFERNO!

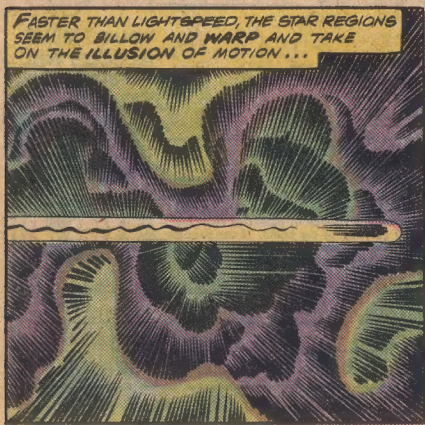
NO!
NO!!




HARVEY NORTON HAS NEVER HEARD OF A "STAR DRIVE"! IT IS AN INSTRUMENT YET TO BE DEVELOPED ON EARTH, BUT TO HIS COMPANION IT IS THEIR TICKET TO SAFETY!



THE VEHICLE WHICH HARVEY MISTAKENLY CALLS A CAPSULE, IS IN REALITY MUCH MORE THAN THAT! IT LEAPS THE INFERNO! IT LEAPS THE SOLAR SYSTEM! --AND THE GALAXIES BEYOND!



FASTER THAN LIGHTSPEED, THE STAR REGIONS SEEM TO BILLOW AND WARP AND TAKE ON THE ILLUSION OF MOTION...



NORTON'S SENSES DESERT HIM! HE'S ALMOST UNHINGED BY THE TRAUMA OF ABJECT DIS-ORIENTATION! THE UNIVERSE HE KNOWS--IS NOT THE UNIVERSE HE SEES!

WHEN THE "STAR DRIVE" CUTS OUT, SPACE ASSUMES AN ACCEPTABLE IMAGE ONCE MORE... BUT THERE ARE REGIONS UNKNOWN TO NORTON'S KIND. HE IS CONFRONTED BY SHAPES AND OBJECTS THAT HE CANNOT IDENTIFY. HARVEY IS NO LONGER IN THE GALAXY WHICH HARBORS HIS NATIVE EARTH!!

WORDS FAIL
ME, PRINCESS!
YOU'VE GOT CARDS UP
YOUR SLEEVE WHICH
TRUMP ANY I'VE
EVER PLAYED!!

GALAXY-HOPPING
IS SOMETHING TO
WRITE HOME ABOUT!
--ONLY I'VE LEFT
HOME FAR
BEHIND ME!

HARVEY HAS ABANDONED MORE THAN THAT. HIS DESTINY IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF A STRANGER--WHO SHOWS HIM UNTOLD MARVELS IN RETURN...

OH WOW!

THE SIGHTS IN THIS NECK OF THE WOODS ARE STAGGERING!

EVERY MAN IN THE SPACE PROGRAM WOULD GIVE HIS RIGHT ARM FOR THE CHANCE TO SEE THIS!

BUT THE GAME BEING PLAYED IN THE VAST GALACTIC WILDERNESS EXCLUDES THE JOY OF SIGHTSEEING. A GLANCE AT THE VIS-MONITOR REVEALS THE SINISTER IMAGE OF THE PURSUERS...

BAD NEWS, PRINCESS! THE GANG'S CAUGHT UP WITH US! WHAT NOW!?

THE "PRINCESS" ACTS QUICKLY! SHE EVADES DEADLY FLAK WHICH BURSTS NEAR HER TINY VEHICLE AND GUIDES IT TOWARD THE BARREN SURFACE OF A GIANT PLANET...

WAHOOM!

NO! NO! TURN BACK!

WAAAM!

A FAST DESCENT IS FOLLOWED BY A HOUND'S AND HARE'S COURSE, CARRIED OUT AMIDST A CHAIN OF OMINOUS CRAGS WHICH THRUST UPWARD FROM THE LAND BELOW, LIKE STONY DAGGERS...

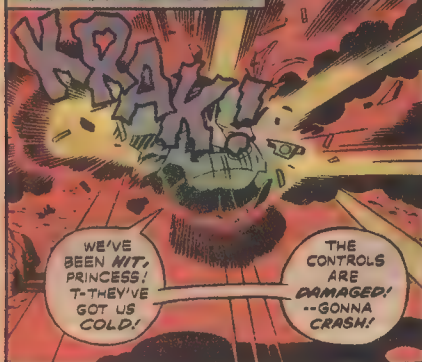
YOU'VE MADE A BAD MOVE, PRINCESS! --A BAD MOVE!

THEN, THE RUNWAY HEAVES INTO VIEW. IT IS LENGTHY AND O.D.--AND AT ITS FARTHEST END STANDS A LARGE-- STRUCTURE...

THEY'LL TRAP US HERE! DON'T YOU SEE!?

WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF HOLDING THEM OFF IN THAT-- FORT--!

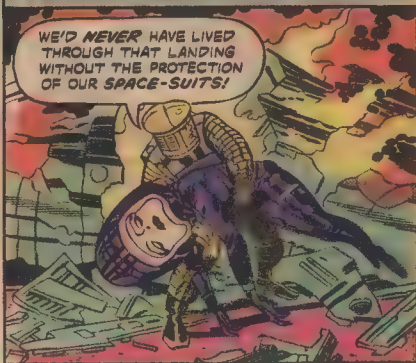
SUDDENLY, THE SKY FLASHES WITH GRIM PORTENT! A LETHAL BEAM FINDS THE SMALL VEHICLE AND INFLECTS A TELLING BLOW!



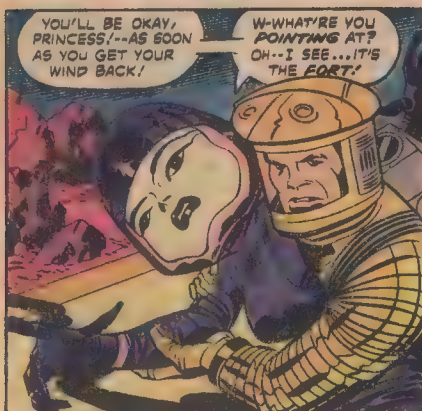
WE'VE
BEEN HIT,
PRINCESS!
T-THEY'VE
GOT US
COLD!

THE
CONTROLS
ARE
DAMAGED!
--GONNA
CRASH!

THE VESSEL SHATTERS ON IMPACT WITH THE GROUND, AND BURSTS INTO FLAME. NORTON AND HIS COMPANION MANAGE TO SURVIVE THE WRECK...



WE'D NEVER HAVE LIVED
THROUGH THAT LANDING
WITHOUT THE PROTECTION
OF OUR SPACE-SUITS!



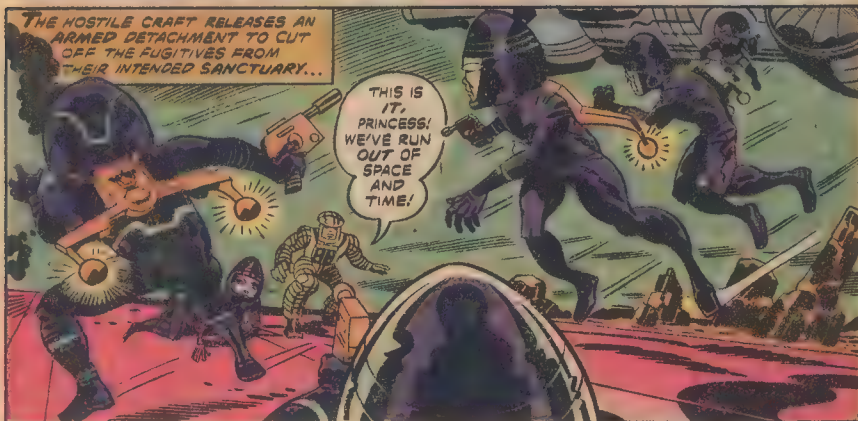
YOU'LL BE OKAY,
PRINCESS!--AS SOON
AS YOU GET YOUR
WIND BACK!

W-WHAT'RE YOU
POINTING AT?
OH--I SEE...IT'S
THE FORT!



REACHING THAT FORT MAY
TURN OUT TO BE ROUGHER'N
THAT LANDING!

THE
OTHERS
HAVE
SEEN
IT
TOO!

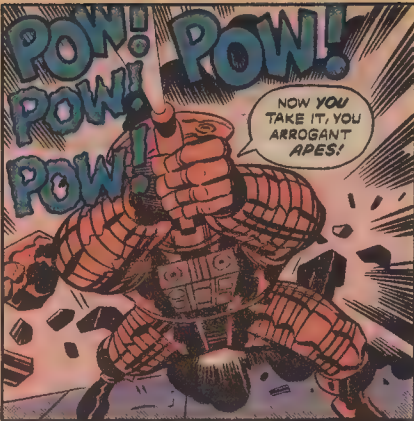
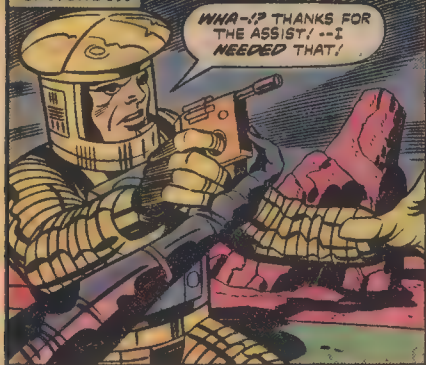


THE HOSTILE CRAFT RELEASES AN ARMED DETACHMENT TO CUT OFF THE FUGITIVES FROM THEIR INTENDED SANCTUARY...

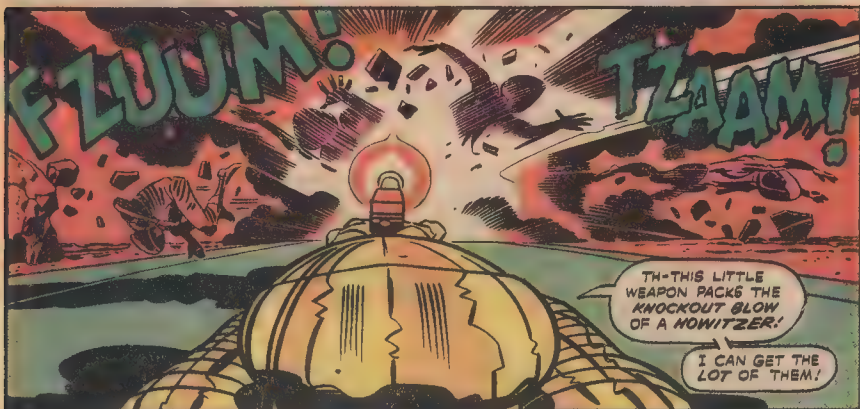
THIS IS
IT,
PRINCESS!
WE'VE RUN
OUT OF
SPACE
AND
TIME!

A WEAPON IS SUDDENLY THRUST INTO HARVEY'S HAND. THE PRINCESS HAS NOT RUN OUT OF OPTIONS...

WHA-!? THANKS FOR THE ASSIST! --I NEEDED THAT!

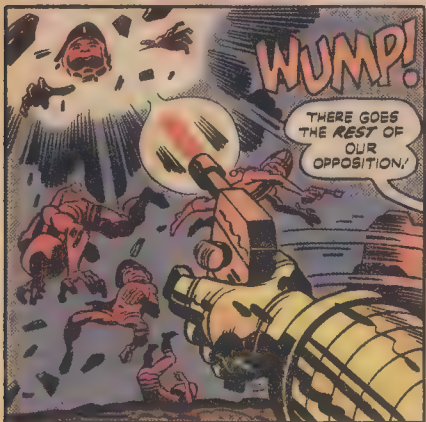


NOW YOU TAKE IT, YOU ARROGANT APES!

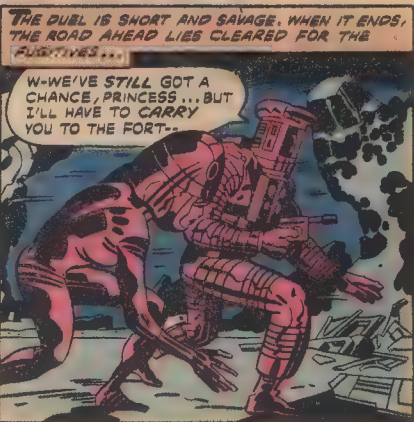


TH-THIS LITTLE WEAPON PACKS THE KNOCKOUT BLOW OF A HOWITZER!

I CAN GET THE LOT OF THEM!



THERE GOES THE REST OF OUR OPPOSITION!



THE DUEL IS SHORT AND SAVAGE. WHEN IT ENDS, THE ROAD AHEAD LIES CLEARED FOR THE FUGITIVES...

W-WE'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE, PRINCESS... BUT I'LL HAVE TO CARRY YOU TO THE FORT...

UNDER THE
SHADOW OF
THE HOVERING
ALIEN CRAFT,
HARVEY MAKES A
FINAL HEROIC EFFORT
TO REACH THE SAFETY
OF THE
FORT...

THIS IS NOT A FORT,
OF COURSE... BUT
IT DOES OFFER A
MANNER OF ESCAPE!
ALL ONE HAS TO DO IS
SUBJECT HIS
BODY ATOMS TO THE
COMPLEX AND
CONSTANTLY OPER-
ATIONAL "SENDING"
MECHANISMS WITHIN
ITS WALLS...

RELAX, PRINCESS.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER
OF YARDS NOW--IF THE
ENEMY DOESN'T HIT US
WITH HEAVY STUFF, WE'VE
GOT IT MADE!

THAT IS, UNTIL WE CAN THINK
OF SOME KIND OF PLAN TO
DISCOURAGE ANY FURTHER
ATTACKS!

ONCE ACROSS THE THRESHOLD, NORTON
PAUSES IN WONDER AT THE SIGHT OF THE
MATTER TRANSMITTER. IT IS THE ONLY
OBJECT OF NOTE IN THE VAST INTERIOR...

THERE ARE MANY SUCH STATIONS IN THE SUR-
ROUNDING GALAXIES. THEY ARE BUILT TO RELAY
ONE'S ATOMIC PARTICLES TO SPECIFIC DESTI-
NATIONS. IT IS A MODE OF TRAVEL AVAILABLE
TO ALL SPACE TRAVELLERS...

SHE'S MOTIONING TO
ME! I'M TO JOIN HER
ON THAT PLATFORM--

I-I WONDER
WHAT ITS FUNCTION
IS? PERHAPS IT
GENERATES A
PROTECTIVE
FORCE FIELD!

WE CERTAINLY
CAN USE
ONE--

W-WHAT
IS THAT
THING?
CAN IT
BE OF ANY
HELP
TO US?

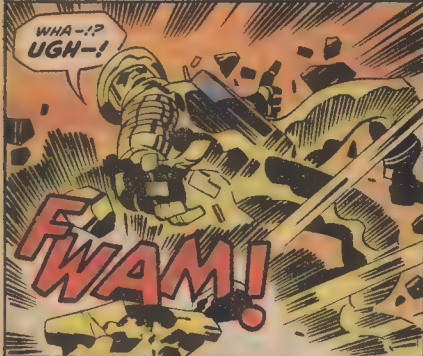
THE INVISIBLE WAVES OF THE "SENDING" MECHANISM ACT QUICKLY AND IRREVERSIBLY. THE PRINCESS BEGINS TO FADE LIKE A PHANTOM, IN THE LAST RAYS OF TWILIGHT...



HARVEY NORTON GRASPS THE MEANING OF THIS PHENOMENON. THE DOORWAY TO ESCAPE IS OPEN--AND WAITING FOR HIM TO PASS THROUGH...



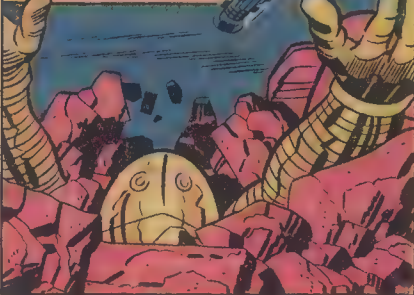
BUT FATE HAS PLANNED DIFFERENTLY FOR NORTON. HE NEVER REACHES THE PLATFORM...



A FRUSTRATED ENEMY DOES NOT TAKE DEFEAT EASILY. HE STABS THE "SENDING" STATION WITH LETHAL BOLTS. HE PULVERIZES IT, STONE BY STONE...



WHEN HIS DESTRUCTIVE WORK IS DONE, THE ENEMY DEPARTS. IN HIS WAKE HE LEAVES JAGGED SCARS, SCORCHED ROCK, AND THE BATTERED SHELL OF HARVEY NORTON...



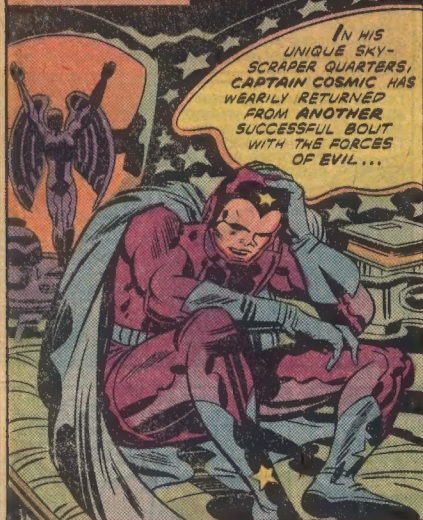
STRANGE SKIES DEEPEN WITH THE APPROACH OF NIGHT... AND THE MOONS OF AN ALIEN GALAXY RISE TO CAST THEIR EERIE GLOW IN THE TOMB-LIKE SILENCE. WHAT IS LEFT OF HARVEY NORTON'S ODYSSEY STANDS REVEALED IN THE STEAMING RUBBLE. THE MONOLITH IS, IN ITSELF, THE FINAL ACT AS WELL AS THE FINAL ACTOR IN A DESTINY PLAY WITH A MOST UNUSUAL ENDING...

IT IS TIME TO
CREATE AND
SET THE STAGE
FOR NORTON'S
LAST
MOMENTS--
FOR HE IS
STILL ALIVE
AND MUST
ENDURE THE
CHANGE!



THE MONOLITH WORKS QUICKLY. IT CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH NORTON CAN LIVE OUT HIS FADING LIFE SPAN. IT FASHIONS THE LAIR AND TRAPPINGS OF THE TYPE OF PERSONALITY WHO HAS ALWAYS LIVED IN HARVEY'S HEART: THE SUPERHERO!

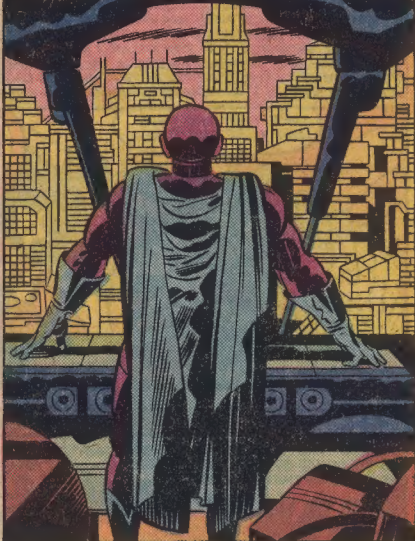
IN HIS UNIQUE SKY-SCRAPER QUARTERS, CAPTAIN COSMIC HAS WEARILY RETURNED FROM ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BOUT WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL...



HE TURNS FROM THE WINDOW AND PREPARES TO REST, UNAWARE THAT HE IS AGING RAPIDLY--BLISSFULLY IGNORANT OF THE GROWING WRINKLES... THE DRYING OF THE SKIN. CAPTAIN COSMIC LOOKS BACK UPON A LIFE OF GREAT ADVENTURE AND A NEVER-ENDING FUTURE OF JOUSTING AGAINST INJUSTICE...



HE RISES TO GAZE OUT ONCE MORE AT THE CITY HE LOVES. IT STANDS CLEAN AND CLEAR AGAINST THE BRIGHTENING DAWN. IT COMMUNICATES A FEELING OF JOY AND GRATIFICATION.



ALAS, THE DREAM'S AS MORTAL AS THE MAN. THE GOOD CAPTAIN IS NOW QUITE OLD, AS HE SAGS INTO HIS FAVORITE ARMCHAIR. THE YEARS BEGIN TO WEIGH HEAVIER WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT. FOR CAPTAIN COSMIC, THE DAY IS TRULY DONE...



THE MONOLITH APPEARS AS ONE ODYSSEY PASSES AND ANOTHER BEGINS...



FOR, WHAT WAS THIS MAN, BUT THE PREPARATION FOR A NEW SEED? AND WHAT IS THE NEW SEED, BUT MAN'S ADMISSION TO A WIDER UNIVERSE...



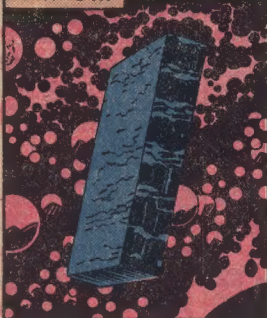
THE ATOMIC FILM WHICH NOW HIDES THE HUMAN SHELL FROM VIEW, FACILITATES THE TRANSFORMATION TAKING PLACE BENEATH...



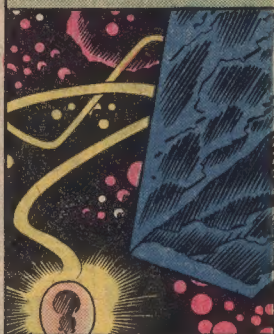
THEN, THE CHANGE IS COMPLETE! A NEW SEED HAS EMERGED WHERE THE MAN HAD BEEN...



IT HAS TAKEN MERE MINUTES TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK. THE ENVIRONMENT VANISHES. THE MONOLITH WAITS PATIENTLY IN SPACE...



THE NEW SEED ADJUSTS HAPPILY TO ITS SURROUNDINGS. THE UNIVERSE IS A VAST HOME IN WHICH IT WILL LIVE AND THRIVE.



BEFORE IT DEPARTS TO FULFILL ITS DESTINY AMONG THE STARS, THE NEW SEED GAZES ENIGMATICALLY FROM ITS RADIANT POD. THERE IS A DEEP WISDOM IN ITS EYES--AND THE FORMING OF VITAL DECISIONS. WHEN THEY ARE MADE, IT WILL BE GONE...



MORE ABOUT THE NEW SEED! WHERE DOES IT GO? WHAT DOES IT DO? COMING NEXT:

THE CHILD

ON SALE **MARCH 22!**

MONOLITH MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

CONFLICTS: A TREATISE

Hi, fans! Welcome to the futureworld of 2001—again. Opinions on Jack (King) Kirby's latest opus of an odyssey, namely ish #2, are as varied as ever!

Indeed, ever since Jack came back to Mighty Marvel, an amazing reaction to his rampagin' work has raged from mailbag to mailbag, from letters page to letters page. In twenty-five words or less: The man does not seem capable of provoking mild response. Readers are either in rapture—or enraged.

This time is no different. Sifting through the stacks of studied soliloquies, however, we did note that the balance seems to be in favor of the King's colossal treatment of the 2001 theme.

Thus, without further ado, we bring you a representative batch of plaudits and brickbats...

Dear Jack,

2001 #2 was better, than issue #1. It was well done, and a visual treat; however, I find fault with the concept.

I don't believe readers are going to get too excited reading a variation of the same story every issue. 2001 would be better if you would develop continuing characters and storylines.

As it is now, I would rather that BLACK PANTHER be monthly than 2001.

Mike Underwood
6241 18th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Dear Jack,

In the era of comics, where a new mag is blossoming each week, my opinion is that 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY beats them all. I think you did a fantastic job on your latest masterpiece. I know it took a lot of effort and hard work to produce this classic, and 2001 lived up to my great expectations. You made 2001 easy to understand, because when I saw the movie I really didn't quite comprehend it.

Your superb artwork dazzled me, and I rate 2001 as a classic and a milestone for Marvel. I think 2001 will be around a long time. I give the best artist/writer, and the most active person in comics today, my best wishes.

So, till I become the next candidate for the new seed, make mine Marvel!

Kevin J. Novick
9 Autumn Court
Colonia, NJ 07067

Dear Jack,

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY #2 was very, very good, but where is this comic going?

Sam Hays
109B Chapman Hall, Adelphi University
Garden City, NY 11530

Dear Jack,

I really liked your Treasury adaptation of 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, but please stop your regular-sized book before any damage is done.

Jim Johnson
4217 Haldane Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Dear Marvel,

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY needs a skilled writer to make it work. After reading a few pages of Jack's sophomoric captions and dialog, I gave up and just looked at the pictures with an occasional glance at the print.

Ann Nichols
4864 Sioux Avenue
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Hey, Bubs!

Kirby is a genius, both mentally and artistically. There's nothing more that I can say.

Nick Aquila, Jr.
P.O. Box 471
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Jack,

Questions, questions...

1) Is there any long-range plan in mind for this book? I enjoyed issue #2, but it was a plot re-hash of the film, and the next two issues seem to be another instant-evolution story.

2) Are you planning on developing the Star-babies? They seem like the only consistent characters being formed. Are they the ultimate stars of the show? I'm interested in seeing where they end up, both physically and mentally. They look like baby versions of the Watcher! Has old pudgy got a wife hidden somewhere?

3) Why is this book monthly already? Lately we've seen five new magazines start out as monthlies with the first issue. The old tradition was always to start a book as a bimonthly until sales warranted monthly publication. But now NOVA, ETERNALS, MS. MARVEL, LOGAN'S RUN, and 2001 have all broken the old mold, without even a past gauge of popularity. These are all new concepts, and the house titles are all full of reprints. GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY is the only series at Marvel without its own title. I guess the try-out books have taken their place.

4) This one you probably can't answer yet. What will sales be like on 2001? This mag has some pretty advanced concepts for the average reader. I have to admit that I'm a bit pessimistic about its continued existence. But good luck, anyway!

Mark Boersma
1714 Stump Road
Perkasie, PA 18944

It is our anonymous observation, fellow Marvelite Mark, that Jack's focus is much closer than that to which the casual comics reader is perhaps acclimated (how's that for mixed metaphors?). What we mean is that you have to be patient, and judge the body of Jack's work, rather than subjecting it to an issue-by-issue critical scrutiny, if you choose to apply the usual standards. The reason for this is that King Kirby seems to devote entire issues to what are, in essence, mere incidents—thus, his focus is close. He takes a multitude of issues to tell in detail a story that many other writers would cover in one or two; therefore, the structure is not so much that of a complete story, as that of a single incident. It is only when a dozen of his comics are absorbed in series at a single sitting that the larger story becomes clear. And that's why we can only advise you to be patient, Mark, for all will eventually be explained in good time.

Meanwhile, just sit back and enjoy!

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

scanned by *Wizard*

